

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Second Middlesex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Second Middlesex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.9% (2,306) reside in the Second Middlesex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (438) of Second Middlesex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 70.9% of admissions from the Second Middlesex Senatorial District were male and 29.1% were female.
- Over 53.7% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 85.7% of admissions were white non-Latino, 4.9% were black non-Latino, 4.9% were Latino, 0.8% were Asians, and 3.6% were other racial categories.
- 68.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.3% were married, and 13.7% reported not to be married now.
- 24.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 52.5% completed high school, and 22.6% had more than high school education.
- 23.7% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 17.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

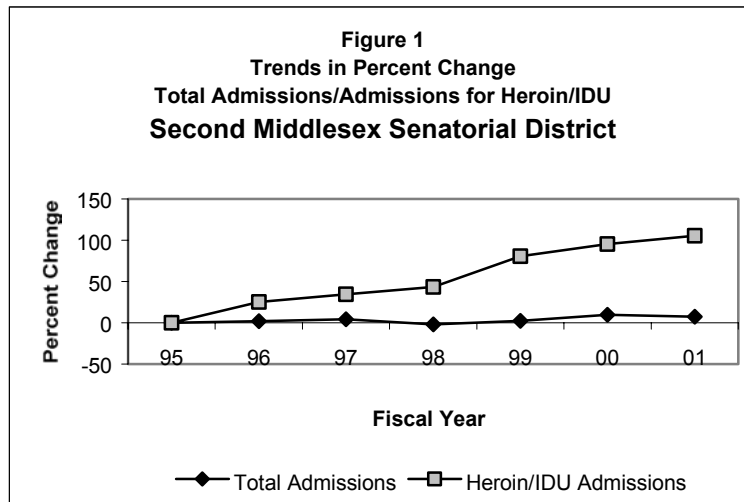
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Second Middlesex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Second Middlesex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,151	1,773	701	839	473	593	363
FY '96	2,193	1,811	731	756	490	727	469
FY '97	2,239	1,821	666	682	480	753	532
FY '98	2,112	1,639	648	646	375	795	575
FY '99	2,197	1,634	633	680	324	967	758
FY '00	2,362	1,721	652	699	288	1,043	823
FY '01	2,306	1,674	600	679	295	1,102	863

- Since peaking in FY 1995, residents of Second Middlesex Senatorial District reported a leveling off in alcohol and marijuana use.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting cocaine and crack use have declined by 19% and 38%, respectively, while heroin use increased by more than 85%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Second Middlesex Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 7% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased 105%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Second Middlesex Senatorial District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	43.2%	41.8%	3.4%	3.9%	2.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was lower than the State average, heroin as a primary drug was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000